

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 NIC-01 OPR-02

M-03 A-01 SY-10 PC-04 RSR-01 AID-20 /171 W

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P R 251700 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6335

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ELAB, UV

SUBJ : LABOR DISTURBANCES

1. MAIN FACTION OF ORGANIZATION VOLTAIQUE DES SYNDICATS LIBRES (OVSL), LEADING VOLTAN LABOR FEDERATION, CALLED FOR 48- HOUR GENERAL STRIKE FOR APRIL 25-26. ABOUT 500 SUPPORTERS STAGED DEMONSTRATION THIS MORNING IN FROM OF PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE. TRUCKLOADS OF RIFLE- CARRYING TROOPS BROKE UP DEMONSTRATION, AND SEVERAL PERSONS REPORTEDLY INJURED OR KILLED. LARGE SURROUNDING AREA, INCLUDING MAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES, CORDONED OFF FOR SOMETIME THEREAFTER.

2. UNUSUAL ACTIVITY ALSO IN CENTER OF TOWN, WITH MANY STORES CLOSED OUT OF FEAR OR SYMPATHY, KNOTS OF MEN BEING HARANGUED AT LABOR CENTER, AND YOUTHS RETURNING FROM DEMONSTRATION THROWING ROCKS.

3. MAIN ISSUE IS DISPUTED ELECTION OF NEW OVSL
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SECRETARY- GENERAL AND OTHER OFFICERS APRIL 6. SYG CANDIDATES WERE BONIFACED KABORE, FIREBRAND EDITOR OF SCURRILOUS INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER KIBARE AND BROTHER OF LATE OVSL SYG FRANCOIS DE SALES DABORE, AND APEVE NABIAS, DIRECTEUR DE CABINET OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE. DESPITE THIS PRESENT POSITION, NABIAS HAS LONG BACKGROUND OF ALABOR ACTIVITY, WAS A LEADING OVSL OFFICER WHEN OVSL FOUNDED IN 1964, AND IS OVSL ASST. SYG. DISPUTE CENTERED OVER CREDENTIALS OF OUAGADOUGOU DELEGATION, WHICH SUPPORTED KABORE, WHEN OUAGA DELEGATION REFUSED HAVE CREDENTIALS CHECKED, MAJORITY OF NABIAS SUPPORTERS WALKED OUT, ACCOMPANIED BY NABIAS AND BY CHAIRMAN AND VICE- CHAIRMEN OF MEETING. REMAINING DELEGATES THEN ELECTED KABORE. HOWEVER PRIME MINISTER GERARD KANGO OUEDRAOGO REFUSED PERMIT GOVERNMENT TO SANCTION KABORE'S ELECTION, AND NABIAS FACTION CALLS FOR NEW ELECTION.

4. KABORE CONSIDERS HIMSELF LEGALLY ELECTED, AND HE APPEARS HAVE MJORITY OVSL SUPPORT IN OUAGADOUGOU. HIS BROADSHEETS ATTACK PRIME MINISTER FOR TRYING TO IMPOSE NABIAS. ISSUE, LIKE TEACHER/ STUDENT STRIKE IN FEBRUARY, SHAPES UP AS MAJOR CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

5. SECONDARY ISSUE IS STRIKE OF TAXI- DRIVERS AND BUTCHERS AT SLAUGHTERHOUSE, WHICH STARTED IN LAST TWO DAYS. TAXI- DRIVERSSTRUCK OVER INCIDENT WHEN WIFE OF A NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN SLAPPED DRIVER OF A TAXI WITH WHICH HER CAR NEARLY HAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, THEN COMPLAINED TO POLICE, WHO ARRESTED DRIVER, DRIVERS CONSIDER THIS ABUSE OF POWER. BUTCHERS STRUCK IN SYMPATHY BECAUSE MANY OF THEM OWN TAXIS.

6. RELIABLE SOURCES STATE STRIKE WILL BE JOINTED TOMORROW BY CUSTOMS, PTT, HOSPITAL WORKERS, CLERKS , AND SEVERAL OTHER UNIONS. TEACHERS REPORTEDLY WILL REFUSE TEACH WHEN EASTERVACATIONENDS FRIDAY. POPULAR REFRAIN AROUND TOWN IS THAT PRIME MINISTER MUST GO, MARUICE YAMEOGO MUST RETURN.
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